



# USDA BROILER MARKET NEWS REPORT

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## NATIONAL BROILER MARKET AT-A-GLANCE



Majority prices for next week were trending unchanged. Trade sentiment was mixed, but overall steady. Retail demand was slow to fair with few features present to increase movement. Food service was light to moderate, good into fast food for promotions. Supplies were usually sufficient for trade requirements. In the parts structure, trading was no better than fair and frequently limited to regular commitments. Wings were adequate to close, and the remaining items were at least adequate or available. In production areas, live supplies were moderate. Weights were irregular.

**Preliminary report** of prices negotiated for trucklot sales of ready-to-cook broiler/fryers fob and delivered to first receivers at major market areas week of 02/23/04-02/27/04 (cents per lb)

### US GRADE A

(Including branded product)

AREAS	MAJORITY	RANGE	WTD AVG	LOADS
Delivered to First Receivers				
Chicago	69.00-72.00	67.50-82.00	71.91	27
Los Angeles	77.00			
New York	76.00-78.00			
Southeast Area	FOB Dock Equivalent			
Mississippi	70.00-73.00	69.00-74.00	71.99	84

**GEORGIA F.O.B. DOCK PRICES** Georgia f.o.b. dock quoted price on broilers/fryers for this week's trading is 72.00 cents based on ice-packed USDA grade "A" sized 2 1/2 to 3 pound birds.

### PRELIMINARY FOB DOCK OR EQUIVALENT

LOADS	RANGE	FRIDAY PRELIM. WTD. AVG.
866	66.00-75.00	71.93

Georgia f.o.b. dock confirmed preliminary weighted average price on ice packed parts:

ITEM	WTD. AVG. (CENTS PER POUND)	VOLUME (000 POUNDS)
LINE RUN TENDERS	218.00	1,229
BREASTS - B/S	192.50	5,376
BREASTS - WHOLE	99.00	1,727
THIGH MEAT - B/S	120.50	981
LEG QUARTERS	39.50	7,540
WINGS	121.50	2,910

This information is supplied by the Georgia Department of Agriculture's Poultry Market News Service.

**MIDWEST REGION BROILER/FRYERS** Preliminary majority prices into the Chicago area for next weeks' deliveries were unchanged from Tuesday's final. The whole broiler/fryer continued on a steady market tone. Offerings were limited. Trade interest was spotty and generally light. Retail movement remained slow to fair with limited expectation for increased demand for end of the month. Food service trade continued to be uneven with fairly good demand into fast food promotions. Floor stocks were barely adequate to long. Weights were desirable to occasionally heavy. Supplies of leg quarters and boneless/skinless breasts slightly more available and wings were in close balance. Trade sentiment was steady to fully steady on wings, steady to cautiously steady on breast cuts and unsettled on dark meat.

**SOUTHERN BROILER** Trade sentiment was mostly steady. Demand entering the weekend was light to moderate with mixed trading. Supplies were usually sufficient to handle trade needs. In the parts structure, trading was fair. Tenders were barely adequate to tight, but all other breast items were at least adequate. Wings were sufficient, and dark meat was in good balance and moving. In production areas, live supplies were moderate at mixed, but mostly desirable weights.

**WESTERN REGION BROILER/FRYERS** The preliminary majority prices were unchanged from last Friday. Trading reported for next week's deliveries at unchanged to higher prices. Offerings were adequate overall. Buying activity was moderate. Retailer demand was fairly good best to cover parts and where features in progress. Dealers anticipated moderate weekend carryovers. Trade sentiment was gen-

erally steady on parts with bone-in breast showing some weakness.

**Ads noted** (per pound unless otherwise stated):

**Arizona** - roaster 99, boneless breast 197-499, boneless breast 4# bagged IQF 999, boneless thigh meat 199, split breast 89-199, wing 99- 149, leg quarter 10# bags 490, thigh 88-149, drumstick 88-149;

**Colorado** - boneless breast 349-399, boneless breast tenders 299, drumstick 129, thigh 129;

**Idaho** - whole body 47, split breast 4# bagged IQF 699, drumstick 4# bagged IQF 249, thigh 4# bagged IQF 249,

**(deli food service** - whole rotisserie chicken each 499);

**Northern California** - whole body 139, whole cut-up 149, roaster 139-149, boneless breast 499, boneless breast fillets 369, boneless thigh meat 249, split breast 99, thigh 169; whole leg 129-169,

**Southern California** - whole body 67-99, whole cut-up 169, roaster 149, boneless breast 169-399, boneless breast fillets or tenders 399, boneless breast marinated 2.5# bags 699, boneless breast 4# bagged IQF 999, boneless thigh meat 199, boneless leg meat 119-158, split breast 148-199, whole leg 99, leg quarter 77, leg quarter marinated 57, leg quarter 10# bag 390-490, party wings 5# bagged IQF 599, thigh 69-99, drumstick 59-99, drumstick 5# bagged 295,

**(deli food service** - fried 8 piece drumstick and thigh 298, 8 piece mixed 399, whole rotisserie chicken each 399-499).

**NORTHEAST BROILER/FRYERS** Trucklot buying interest on ready-to-cook whole broiler/fryers was no better than fair entering the weekend. Offerings of all sizes were noted as slightly more available, but manageable. Movement through retail and distributive channels was cautious and unaggressive. The market tone was about steady. In the parts complex, boneless-skinless breasts were adequate to available at times. Bone-in breasts were sufficient. Dark meat cuts were adequate, although, b/s thighs were clearing well. Wings ranged adequate to balanced.

**DELMARVA BROILER/FRYERS** Movement of ready-to-cook whole birds was mostly fair entering the weekend. Seller offerings varied by but were generally more than sufficient for trade needs. Live supplies were moderate; weights were in a full range of light to heavy. Processor schedules were moderate. Less than trucklot asking prices were unchanged at 77 to 87 cents. Trade sentiment was mostly steady. In the parts complex, boneless skinless breasts were available. Bone-in breasts were adequate. Wings were sufficient. Boneless thigh meat was well cleared.

\*BROILER/FRYER CURRENT NEGOTIATED PRICES FOR IMMEDIATE DELIVERY INCLUDES MOSTLY MULTIPLE-DROP SHIPMENTS OF BRANDED AND WING TAGGED TO NEW YORK CITY FROM DELMARVA. **BRANDED U.S. GRADE A**

RANGE	69-92
WEIGHTED AVERAGE	79.74
NO. OF BOXES	6,899
CUMULATIVE	02/16/04-02/20/04 79.44
	02/17/03-02/21/03 57.98
NO. OF BOXES	02/16/04-02/20/04 34,151
	02/17/03-02/21/03 30,635

\*7 of 7 plants reporting.

FEB 19

**SOUTHERN STATES BROILER/FRYER PARTS**

FEB 20

FEB 19					FEB 20						
ITEM	POUNDS			WTD	POUNDS			WTD	WEEKLY		
	(000)	RANGE	MAJORITY	AVG	(000)	RANGE	MAJORITY	WTD AVG	(000)	WTD AVG	
BREAST - B/S	885	180.00-260.00	183-185	190.62	875	182.00-260.00	184-187	191.01	3,515	189.54	
TENDERLOINS	192	190.00-235.00	190-194	196.15	188	194.00-235.00	194-196	200.36	816	197.67	
BREAST - LINE RUN	108	95.00-101.00	96-98	98.09	138	96.00-101.00	98-101	98.83	457	98.38	
FRONT HALVES	TOO FEW TO REPORT				TOO FEW TO REPORT				294	101.09	
LEGS	113	55.00-58.00	55-57	56.63	103	56.00-58.00	56-57	56.30	504	56.39	
LEG QUARTERS (BULK)	599	35.00-39.50	36-37	36.42	603	35.00-39.50	36-37.5	36.60	2,366	36.94	
LEG QUARTERS (4/10)	980	38.00-41.00	39-40	39.47	980	38.00-43.00	38-40	39.80	4,522	39.57	
WINGS (WHOLE)	281	119.00-124.00	119-122	121.76	281	119.00-124.00	119-122	121.76	1,124	121.40	
WINGS (CUT)	600	132.00-142.00	133-136	135.82	548	132.00-142.00	134-137	135.89	1,956	136.22	
DRUMSTICKS	TOO FEW TO REPORT				TOO FEW TO REPORT				56	58.86	
THIGHS	TOO FEW TO REPORT				TOO FEW TO REPORT				112	54.43	
B/S THIGHS	TOO FEW TO REPORT				160	110.00-120.00	112-116	114.00	400	115.45	
*****					*****						
WHOLE BODY INDEX BASED ON SOUTHERN STATES PARTS					WHOLE BODY INDEX BASED ON SOUTHERN STATES PARTS						
TRADING FOR FEBRUARY 19, 2004 F.O.B. DOCK.					TRADING FOR FEBRUARY 20, 2004 F.O.B. DOCK.						

**RANGE****TODAY'S AVERAGE****RANGE****TODAY'S AVERAGE****5-DAY AVERAGE**

65.00-72.25

69.17

65.00 - 74.25

69.07

69.03

The Index is intended solely as an indicator of values for commodity-type product and does not represent industry's willingness to sell or ability to buy.

**NORTHEAST BROILER/FRYER PARTS** - Trucklot buying activity was no better than fair entering the weekend as dealers remained cautious and selective, limiting orders to most immediate needs. Offerings of boneless-skinless breasts were available, but manageable. Bone-in breasts were sufficient. Dark meat cuts were adequate with leg quarters noted as slightly more available. B/S thigh meat was clearing well. Wings ranged adequate to balanced. Movement through retail channels was lackluster with limited features noted. Distributive draw was no better than fair. The market tone was cautious on boneless-skinless breasts and leg quarters and steady to fully steady on the balance.

ICE PACKED B/F PARTS, DLVRD TO FIRST RECEIVERS IN POOL TRUCKLOT AND TRUCKLOT QUANTITIES, CENTS PER LB. FEB 20

ITEM	CURRENT NEG			WTD	CURRENT NEG			WTD	WEEKLY	
	TRADING*	AVG**	VOL/LBS		TRADING*	AVG**	VOL/LBS		WTD AVG	VOL/LBS
BREAST - B/S	185	186.18	619,401		185	184.59	837,347	184.88		3,084,260
TENDERLOINS	190-195	174.42	149,900		190-195	189.37	181,050	179.79		663,900
BREAST - WITH RIBS	95-96	103.26	128,480		95-96	102.56	154,760	102.63		657,640
BREAST - LINE RUN	95	97.96	111,600		95	97.34	87,640	98.05		522,360
LEGS	47-48	51.52	319,400		47-48	52.16	410,600	52.25		1,659,285
LEG QUARTERS (BULK)	38-39	39.55	491,412		38-39	39.63	294,440	39.50		1,964,507
DRUMSTICKS	40-41	46.09	125,120		40-41	45.13	133,120	46.21		694,728
THIGHS	41-42	49.85	67,560		41-42	50.33	56,360	49.64		361,605
B/S THIGHS	112-113	114.87	105,280		115-116	115.25	64,880	114.10		344,370
WINGS (WHOLE)	114-115	121.73	140,400		114-115	122.60	162,080	122.97		632,340
BACKS AND NECKS (STRIPPED)	10-12	12.07	22,280		10-12	12.21	35,680	11.98		155,400
LIVERS (5 POUND TUBS)	35-40	38.63	9,960		35-40	37.74	13,760	35.92		64,810
GIZZARDS (HEARTS)	60-65	69.54	22,520		60-65	69.62	22,600	69.48		114,960

INCLUDES: NY CITY METRO. AREA, RI, NORTHERN NJ, MA, CT, PA (NORTHEAST OF HARRISBURG). \* TODAY'S NEG. SALES AS OF 11:30 A.M.

\*\* WTD AVG PRICE OF ALL GRADES AND BRANDS OF PRODUCT SHIPPE, OR TO BE SHIPPED AS OF 1:30 P.M.

**ESTIMATED SLAUGHTER OF BROILER-FRYERS (IN THOUSANDS)**

	ESTIMATED		ACTUAL		AVG WT		ACTUAL		AVG WTS	
	02/20	02/19	02/18	02/17	02/18	02/17	02/13	02/11		
ALA	4,061	3,931	3,822	3,792	5.16	5.24	4,151	5.18		
ARK	5,064	5,349	5,035	4,971	5.01	5.08	4,939	5.02		
DELMARVA	2,140	2,184	2,138	2,104	5.33	5.24	2,103	5.35		
KY-LA-TN	1,849	1,953	1,954	2,020	5.05	5.07	2,037	4.96		
MISS	2,851	3,091	3,021	3,009	5.45	5.50	2,565	5.35		
NC	2,591	2,398	2,372	2,317	6.20	6.25	2,463	6.24		
TEXAS	2,065	2,294	2,336	2,341	5.06	5.13	2,694	5.15		
TOTAL	20,621	21,200	20,678	20,554	5.28	5.32	20,952	5.27		
MON-FRI	104,213						104,135 (A)			

(A) Weekly cumulative for states listed above.

Broiler-fryer slaughter under federal inspection for 20-Feb 04 and 21-Feb-04 is estimated to be 30,851,000 down 1.88 percent from a week ago and down 2.9 percent from a year ago.

(Last week 31,441,000; last year 31,781,000)

Weekly broiler-fryer slaughter under federal inspection for the weekending 21-Feb-04 is estimated to be 149,776,000 head down 2 percent from a week ago, and up 2 from a year ago.

(Last week 152,505,000 Last year 147,355,000)

**SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA (L.A. AREA) PROCESSED POULTRY, DELIVERED TO RETAILERS**

	RANGE
FRESH FRYERS	93-99
ROASTERS 4# & UP	95-105
HENS UNDER 5#	
HENS OVER 5#	71-77
DUCKS	
RABBITS-WHOLE	
RABBITS-CUT UP	

**SAN FRANCISCO PROCESSED POULTRY DELIVERED TO RESTAURANTS AND INSTITUTIONS**

	RANGE
FRESH FRYERS	104-106
DRY PACK	102-103
ICE PACK	
ROASTERS 4# & UP	105
DRY PACK	109
ICE PACK	
HENS OVER 5#	93
ICE PACK	93-95
DRY PACK	
DUCKS	152-175

**YOUNG CHICKENS SLAUGHTERED** Under federal inspection, classified by live wt., week ending 07-Feb-04 (Preliminary),

	(A) Fast food/ Food service	(B) Retail	(C) Deboning
	4.20 Lbs & down	4.21-5.25 Lbs	5.26 Lbs & Up
	-----THOUSANDS-----		

Head	26,379	27,539	42,299
Avg Weight	3.71	4.81	6.42
% of total /1	27%	29%	44%

## COMPARISONS

Last week	21,246	19,681	39,011
Avg Weight	3.78	4.73	6.49
% of total /1	27%	25%	49%

Same week, yr ago /2	26,723	27,698	43,415
Avg Weight	3.75	4.93	6.26
% of total /1	27%	28%	44%

To date/2004	108,267	106,059	195,981
To date/2003	111,764	106,934	203,077

/1 May not total to 100% due to rounding. /2 Comparable week.

(A) This weight class generally denotes chickens marketed in the fast food and food service industries. May also include cornish hens.

(B) This weight class generally denotes chickens marketed in the retail industry.

(C) This weight class generally denotes chickens used in further processing. May also include heavy roasters sold in retail channels.

**LIVE POULTRY SLTRD UNDER FEDERAL INSPECTION** W/E 14-Feb-04 (PRELIMINARY)

	YOUNG CHICKENS	LIGHT HENS	HEAVY HENS	TOTAL HENS	DUCKS
	-----THOUSANDS-----				
HEAD	152,505	1,230	1,319	2,549	450
AVG WT	5.16	3.32	8.02	5.75	6.8
LAST WEEK	153,788	1,117	1,273	2,390	454
SAME WK YR AGO	152,044	1,793	1,257	3,050	418
AVG WT	5.15	3.43	7.77	5.42	6.9
TO-DATE/2004	921,007	7,834	7,665	15,499	2,690
TO-DATE/2003	903,375	10,384	8,287	18,671	2,508

(A) The estimated number of fryers available for marketing based on the 2-week revised average chick placements 6 to 7 weeks earlier was 158.5 million head. Estimated U.S. slaughter for this period 154.4 million head or 4.1 million head less than or 97% of estimated fryers available.

**GRAYSTONE SMALL ANIMAL AUCTION -** FEB 17, 2004

PRICES PAID PER POUND, EXCEPT AS NOTED

\*\*AI PAPERS REQUIRED TO SELL ALL OUT OF STATE POULTRY\*\*

	RANGE		RANGE
Muscovy Ducks - Drakes	1.00 - 1.10	Silkie	2.00 - 2.25ea.
Muscovy Ducks - Hens	1.00 - 1.05	Geese	
Pekin Ducks	3.25 - 3.50ea.	9-14 LBS	.50 - .60
Red Fowl 4-5 LBS	.40 - .50	Pigeons	3.50 - 4.10ea.
Red Fowl 5-6 LBS	.50 - .80	White Pigeons	6.25 - 7.00ea.
Crossbred Fowl 5-9 LBS	.60 - .70	Rabbits	
Crossbred Roosters		4-6 LBS	1.30 - 1.60
4-6 LBS	.50 - .55	Rabbits	
Crossbred Roosters		6-9 LBS	1.10 - 1.20
7-11 LBS	.50 - .60	Bunnies	2.00 - 5.00ea.
Guinea Fowl	1.65 - 1.70	Guinea Pigs	2.00 - 6.00ea.
Banty Roosters	3.00 - 4.00ea.	Goats	50.00 - 60.00ea.
Banty Hens	2.00 - 2.50ea.	Pullets 4-6 LBS	1.10
Leghorn Hens	.20 - .30	Total Coops Sold	336

**EASTERN REGION MISCELLANEOUS POULTRY**

FOR CURRENT DELIVERY FOR THE WEEK OF 16-FEB-2003

**DUCKLINGS:** PRICES NEGOTIATED BY FIRST RECEIVERS, US GRADE A, 4-5 POUNDS, DELIVERED IN TRUCKLOT AND POOL TRUCKLOT QUANTITIES

ORIGIN	FROZEN	FRESH
LONG ISLAND	137-140	144-146
MOSTLY		
MIDWEST	124-128	125-130
MOSTLY		

**ROASTERS:** PRICES NEGOTIATED BY FIRST RECEIVERS, US GRADE A AND PLANT GRADE, 5 POUNDS AND UP, DELIVERED

	RANGE	MOSTLY
ICE PACKED (12 PER BOX)	76.00-79.50	78.00-79.00
VACUUM PACKED (6-9 PER BOX)	63.00-85.50	67.00-75.00

**SQUABS:** NEW YORK AREA WHOLESALE PRICES, FROZEN, PLANT GRADE, DOLLARS PER DOZEN, 1 TO 10 BOXES

12 OZ.	60.48-71.28
14 OZ.	66.96-77.92
16 OZ.	73.44-86.67

THE EASTERN REGION INCLUDES:

CT,DE,FL,GA,MA,MD,ME,NC,NH,NJ,NY,PA RI,SC,VA,VT,WV

**CENTRAL REGION DUCKLINGS** Prices were unchanged to slightly higher for wings. Trade sentiment fully steady. Demand was fairly good to good. Schedules full-time to instances over-time to catch up with demand. Weights were desirable. Prices paid to first receivers for 10-18oz boneless breast at \$4.25-5.25, bone in legs at \$1.35-1.45, gizzards at \$1.35-1.40, wings at \$0.30-0.50, livers at \$0.75-1.70, and feet at \$0.80-1.15.

NEGOTIATED BY FIRST RECEIVERS FOR US GRADE A DELIVERED IN TRUCKLOT AND POOL TRUCKLOT QUANTITIES, 4-5 POUNDS, WEEK OF 16-FEB-2003

ORIGIN	FROZEN	FRESH
MIDWEST AND OTHERS	107-124	125
MOSTLY		

**ESTIMATED U.S. SLAUGHTER COMPARED TO****ESTIMATED FRYERS AVAILABLE FOR MARKETING.**

WEEK ENDING	MILLION HEAD SLAUGHTERED	MILLION HEAD AVAILABLE	PCT	AVG WT
JANUARY 10	160.8	151.1	106%	5.17
17	159.4	156.3	102%	5.20
24	149.3	157.4	95%	5.24
31	152.7	158.4	96%	5.26
FEBRUARY 7	155.7	159.1	98%	5.22
14	154.4	158.5	97%	5.16
YEAR TO DATE	932.3	940.8	99%	
FEBRUARY 21		157.7		
28		156.8		

**BROILER/CATTLE/HOG WEEKLY ESTIMATED SLAUGHTER****Under Federal Inspection**

	-----THOUSANDS-----				
W/E	02/21/04	02/14/04	% CHG	02/22/03	% CHG
Broilers	149,776	152,505*	-02	147,355*	+02
Cattle	598	609	-02	621*	-04
Hogs	1,896	1,954	-03	1,875*	+01

\*ACTUAL

**NATIONAL CANNER FOWL MARKET** Majority prices were unchanged on heavy canners; unchanged to slightly higher on lights when compared to a week earlier. Demand was mostly moderate. Trading was very light on heavy canners. Available offerings were well cleared. Processing schedules were normal. The undertone was steady.

CENTS PER POUND, CURRENT NEGOTIATIONS, WITHOUT FREIGHT COST

<b>LIGHT CANNER HENS</b>	<b>HEAVY CANNER HENS</b>
<b>(LINE RUN WITHOUT NECKS)</b>	<b>(WITHOUT NECKS)</b>
21-28.5 MAJORITY 24-25	31-37.5 MAJORITY 34-35

CENTS PER POUND, CURRENT NEGOTIATIONS, FREIGHT COST INCLUDED

<b>LIGHT CANNER HENS</b>	<b>HEAVY CANNER HENS</b>
<b>(LINE RUN WITHOUT NECKS)</b>	<b>(WITHOUT NECKS)</b>
24-30 MAJORITY 26.5-27.5	33-39 MAJORITY 36.5-37.5

#### LIGHT TYPE HENS

CENTS PER HEAD, GENERALLY FOR REMOVAL WITHIN THE NEXT 10 DAYS (INCLUDES HANDLING, FREIGHT AND ANY OTHER CHARGES, WEIGHTS AVERAGE ABOUT 3.50 POUNDS)

**EASTERN REGION LIGHT LIVE HEN** Majority values were generally unchanged when compared to a week earlier. Demand was at least moderate. Offerings of spent fowl were about adequate to adequate. Processing schedules were mostly normal. Opinions on removal cost were generally steady.

	<b>RANGE</b>	<b>MAJORITY</b>
REMOVAL COST	0-12	9-11

**SOUTH CENTRAL LIGHT LIVE HEN** Trading was too few to report. Demand was light for fully adequate offerings. Schedules were normal. Finished sales were slow. Values required for disposal were expected to remain steady.

	<b>RANGE</b>	<b>MAJORITY</b>
REMOVAL COST	TOO FEW TO REPORT	

**NORTH CENTRAL LIGHT LIVE HEN** Prices ranged unchanged to sharply higher. Demand was mostly moderate to fairly good. Offerings were adequate to instances tight. Opinions of value were unsettled.

	<b>RANGE</b>	<b>MAJORITY</b>
REMOVAL COST	0-10.5	5.5-7

#### HEAVY TYPE HENS (7 POUNDS AND UP) \*

PRELIMINARY PRICE, CENTS PER LB., GENERALLY FOR SLAUGHTER THE WEEK OF 23-FEB-04

**SOUTHEAST HEAVY LIVE HEN** Sales were too few to report prices. Demand was at least moderate. Offerings were generally adequate. Processing schedules next week were reported as normal. Supplies of finished product were well cleared. The undertone was at least steady.

<b>RANGE</b>	<b>MAJORITY</b>
AT FARM BUYER LOADING	TOO FEW TO REPORT
AT FARM PRODUCER LOADING	TOO FEW TO REPORT
FOB PLANT	TOO FEW TO REPORT

**SOUTH CENTRAL LIVE HEAVY-TYPE HENS** Trading was too few to report. Demand was moderate for adequate offerings of spent hens. Finished sales were fair. Schedules were normal. Trade sentiment was at least steady.

	<b>RANGE</b>	<b>MAJORITY</b>
AT FARM BUYER LOADING	TOO FEW TO REPORT	

\* WEIGHTS UNDER 7 LBS. SUBJECT TO DISCOUNT.

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**WEST COAST LIGHT LIVE HEN** Plant schedules light to moderate. Offerings adequate.